## REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 - 8, and 16 - 19 have been amended. Claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claim, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 20 are now in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action dated May 20, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horvitz et al., U. S. Patent 6,161,130. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The first limitation of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 18, and 19 specifies that a user selects an element of a rendered representation of an electronic object, where this selection is "in a manner consistent with settings defined to indicate selection of organizing criteria". (Note that this claim language is amended herein to replace the term "connote" with "indicate", for clarity of the claim language. This term is supported in Applicants' specification as originally filed.)

For example, Applicants' specification notes that "swiping multiple times across some element of an object" is one approach to "indicate that this element should be selected as an organizing criterion". (See p. 35, lines 13 - 15.) Thus, in this example, the settings would indicate the multiple number of required swipes, and the claim language "in a manner consistent with settings" means that the user has to "swipe multiple times across" some element of the

object; if the user does not swipe that number of times, then according to the settings, the user has not indicated an organizing criterion. Applicants' specification further notes that the settings may comprise a "user-specific configuration file" used to determine, for this specific user, what action this user must take to indicate a "swiping operation". (See p. 37, lines 7 - 15.)

Applicants find no teaching in the cited text from Horvitz of a user "selecting ... an element of a rendered representation ... in a manner consistent with settings defined to indicate selection of organizing criteria", as will now be discussed.

Fig. 2 is cited in the Office Action as pertaining to this claim limitation. However, Fig. 2 simply illustrates that incoming e-mail messages 205 are passed through a (programmatic) classifier 210, which categorizes the messages for display. Fig. 2 also indicates that the user can provide commands 240. These user commands can indicate that messages should be moved to a different folder or that the user wishes to re-train the classifier based on such transfers (col. 9, lines 9 - 17; col. 14, lines 49 - 51).

The only discussion of user actions in the cited text from col. 4, line 40 - col. 5, line 21 states that e-mail messages which have been classified are displayed for "user selection and review", where those messages determined to be "spam" are only displayed "upon a specific user request", and further noting that by sorting the spam messages, "the user need only check that the top few messages are indeed spam ..." (col. 5, lines 7 - 15). This is unrelated to Applicants'

claimed "selecting ... in a manner consistent with settings".

The user actions discussed in the cited text from col. 7, line 40 - col. 9, line 51 includes a statement that the user's moving of a file from one folder to another comprises "manually changing the classification of that message" (col. 9, lines 12 - 15). Moving a file among folders (as taught by Horvitz) is not the same as "selecting ... an element of a rendered representation ... in a manner consistent with settings" (as in Applicants' claim language): Horvitz has no teaching that any element has been selected by the user. Furthermore, moving a file from one folder to another (as in Horvitz) does not indicate that an "organizing criteria" has been "selected", as in Applicants' claim language. Instead, Applicants note that when Horvitz's user makes this type of manual transfer, the user is effectively indicating that the programmatic classifier has failed in its classification of that message, and Horvitz's user is manually reclassifying that message (col. 9, lines 12 - 15).

Applicants also fail to find any teachings in this cited text of "settings defined to indicate selection of organizing criteria", or of any type of relevant "settings", for that matter.

Moreover, if the Examiner suggests that Horvitz's user must "select" an e-mail message before moving it to a different folder, and that this selection indicates the message should therefore be used for subsequent classifying, Applicants respectfully note that Horvitz's user would no longer be able to simply "select" an e-mail message that he wished to view, because

Horvitz fails to teach any kind of "settings" that would enable distinguishing among these otherwise-identical "select" actions.

Applicants also note that Horvitz teaches that his technique "should be ... substantially transparent to the user" (col. 4, lines 28 - 31, emphasis added) and that it "can function and be maintained in a manner that is substantially, if not totally, transparent to the user" (col. 21, lines 43 - 48, emphasis added). This teaches away from Applicants' user-selected approach to indicating organizing criteria.

Furthermore, with reference to the second limitation of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 18, and 19, the cited text fails to teach "concluding, responsive to the [user's selection of an element] that the user has indicated that the [selected] element is to become a criterion for organizing electronic objects".

Horvitz teaches that a "feature set" is used to categorize e-mail messages, where this feature set comprises predefined features (col. 9, line 21) including "simple-word-based features and handcrafted features" that may appear in an e-mail message (col. 9, lines 20 - 24). Hand-crafted features include things such as "whether a predefined word ... is capitalized" (col. 9, lines 22 - 32). A word-based feature "defines a word" (col. 12, lines 8 - 10).

Horvitz teaches that his classifier can be re-trained to use a different feature set. Based

upon the feature set in use, a vector is created for each e-mail message analyzed by the classifier (col. 12, lines 48 - 51), where each entry in the vector is a "binary yes/no decision" as to whether that feature is present in that message. (See col. 11, lines 48 - 51, discussing the binary results for the handcrafted features, and col. 12, lines 2 - 3, discussing the binary results for the text-based features. Col. 12, lines 4 - 8 discuss another alternative, where a non-binary counting-based approach may be used; however, this alternative is not significant to the present discussion.)

Importantly, Applicants note that this re-training of Horvitz's classifier is required after the user "manually reclassifies" a message by moving it to a different folder; otherwise, subsequently-arriving identical messages will also be routed to the same folder where the manually-reclassified message was originally routed. Thus, nothing has been "conclud[ed], responsive to" Horvitz's user moving files among folders. This is in contrast to the second limitation of Applicants' claim language, which specifies "concluding, responsive to the [user's selection of an element] ..." (emphasis added).

Applicants' independent Claims 18 and 19 contain a third limitation, which specifies that the element selected by the user is used "to format a rule that can subsequently be used for organizing stored electronic objects". (The term "documents" has been replaced by "electronic objects", thereby aligning the limitation with the claim preamble.) Page 3, lines 7 - 9 of the Office Action admit that Horvitz does not "explicitly disclose" this limitation. The Office Action continues by stating that manually-classified messages from a training set are used to train

Horvitz's classifier, using features from a feature space (lines 10 - 13). This fails to align with the claim language of Applicants' Claims 18 and 19, as will now be demonstrated.

Lines 13 - 19 of Page 3 indicate that "the trained set of email messages" are "previously selected", and that "features are used for new email message classification". This indicates that the Examiner considers the e-mail messages to be the things selected by Horvitz's user. (Applicants note that Horvitz does not explicitly teach selecting an e-mail message, and that their claim language specifies selecting "an element of a rendered representation".) However, Horvitz teaches that features are something that may appear within an e-mail message (e.g., "word-based features") or as attributes of an e-mail message (e.g., "handcrafted features" such as formatting attributes, delivery attributes, authoring attributes, and communication attributes; col. 9, lines 24 - 51). Applicants' claim language is different. Applicants' claim language specifies that "an element" is selected, and according to antecedent basis, this element itself is then used to format a rule. To re-emphasize, if the Examiner states that Horvitz's user selects an e-mail message, then Applicants' claim language would require that this selected e-mail message be used to format a rule, where this rule is to be used for organizing stored electronic objects. Horvitz, by contrast, uses vectors of "predefined features" in his classifier.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 18, and 19, are patentable over the cited reference.

Applicants also disagree with the analysis of their dependent claims. For example, Claim 2 specifies defining the settings (which indicate selection of organizing criteria). What is discussed in the cited text from col. 22, line 39 - col. 23, line 65 pertains to how Horvitz's classifier determines whether an e-mail message contains spam. In contrast to the limitation in Applicants' Claim 2, this cited text is unrelated to settings used to evaluate user actions. (That is, Applicants' Claim 2 pertains to settings used to determine whether the user has selected something "in a manner consistent with" selecting organizing criteria.)

With regard to Claims 3 and 7, Horvitz has no teaching that the user selected "a word, a phrase, or one or more contiguous characters" of a rendered representation. (Again, col. 22, line 39 - col. 23, line 65 is cited, along with Figs. 5A - 5B. However, there is no reference to the user anywhere in this cited material.)

With regard to Claims 6 and 8, which specify selecting "a portion of an image" or "a portion of one or more images", respectively, Applicants find no discussion whatsoever in Horvitz of images or portions of images.

With regard to dependent Claim 16, Applicants note that the text cited on Page 4 of the Office Action merely discusses devices that Horvitz's user might use when interacting with e-mail. In contrast to Applicants' Claim 16, there is no suggestion in Horvitz of using any of these devices to "swip[e an element] multiple times".

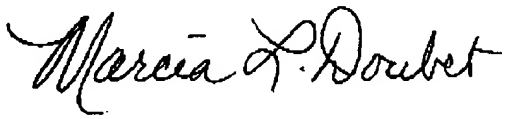
Applicants also submit that their dependent Claims 2 - 17 and 20 are deemed patentable by virtue of the allowability of the independent claims.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103(a) rejection of all claims.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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